

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02461 091501Z

46

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 091330Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5964

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2461

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BDNC, ENRG, AF, IR

SUB: MAJOR PROJECTS: FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR GAS LIQUEFACTION

REF: KABUL 1156

1. FLUOR EURASIA, LUMMUS CO., AND RALPH M. PARSONS HAVE ALL TOLD EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE MOST INTERESTED IN MAKING SERIOUS AND POSITIVE RESPONSE TO CALL FOR BIDS ON ABOVE PROJECT. ALL, HOWEVER, OFFERED EXACTLY THE SAME COMMENTS: (A) THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE AFGHANI PROPOSAL IS TOO VAGUE AND INCOMPLETE FOR THEM TO GIVE ANYTHING OTHER THAN VAGUE COST-PLUS BIDS, AND (B) A SUBSTANTIAL EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE, SAY TO JUNE 15, WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THEM TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN, OBTAIN SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AND PREPARE SOUND PROPOSAL.

2. ALL THREE HAVE TOLD US THAT IF SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL EXTENSION CAN BE GRANTED, EACH WILL SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO KABUL IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. ACTION REQUESTED: THESE FIRMS WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY KABUL'S CONTACTING TOUFIQUI TO ASK WHETHER SUCH AN EXTENSION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY TEHRAN OF TOUFIQUI'S RESPONSE, AND WE WILL NOTIFY THE FIRMS.

3. FYI ONLY: CONVERSATIONS WITH ENGINEERS SUGGEST THAT RESULTS OF FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE NEGATIVE, AND PROBLEM WILL VERY LIKELY BE TO FIND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO LNG APPROACH. WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHERE AFGHANS GOT IDEA OF HAULING LNG ABOUT IN TRUCKS.

MIKLOS

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